

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH  
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear John:

Mr. Williams has requested a fairly rapid SNIE on prospects regarding Katanga, and on behalf of the State Department, I wish formally to propose this project. You will recall that I mentioned it at USIB yesterday, and there seemed to be agreement in the community that it could be done.

In general terms, we should like to see this SNIE deal with the following questions:

- 1 - Is Tshombe likely to accept negotiations?
- 2 - How would his supporters react to the kind of agreement that might be reached?
- 3 - What alternative leadership is possible?
- 4 - What will happen if Tshombe continues his present policy?

There is, manifestly, considerable urgency in this matter, and we propose that the estimate be ready for authorization at the USIB meeting of December 7. Members of ONE and this Bureau have been in contact and will, I believe, have no difficulty in developing the details of the project.

We should much appreciate your authorizing initiation of this estimate.

Sincerely yours,

  
Roger Hilsman

The Honorable  
John McCone,  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington.

State Department review completed

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McCone

Attached is a letter from Roger Hilsman requesting for Assistant Secretary Williams "a fairly rapid" SNIE on prospects regarding Katanga. General Cabell has seen this and a copy has been sent to DD/I for implementation.

Approve ☒ Disapprove ☐

*JSE*  
JSE (2 Dec 61)  
(DATE)

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